

May 2, 2026

My first TalkAbroad conversation took place on Saturday, May 2nd with my partner, Donovan Beaudoin. Overall, I would describe this conversation as a good starting experience, although I was more nervous compared to my second conversation. At the beginning, I found it somewhat difficult to get comfortable speaking in French, and I had to take a few moments to gather my thoughts before responding. Because of this, the conversation did not flow as smoothly at first, but as time went on, I became more relaxed and was able to communicate more effectively.

During our conversation, we discussed several everyday topics, including the weather and our personal preferences. Donovan mentioned that it is not cold where he is right now, which led us into a discussion about the type of weather we each prefer. I shared that I prefer warm weather, while we compared how different climates can affect daily life. This topic was helpful because it allowed me to use familiar vocabulary and build more confidence in forming sentences. We also talked about hobbies and interests, and Donovan shared that he enjoys reading in his free time. This gave me the opportunity to ask follow-up questions about what he likes to read, which helped keep the conversation going and made it feel more natural.

One of my strengths during this conversation was my willingness to continue speaking even when I was unsure of my grammar or vocabulary. I made an effort to respond in complete sentences and stay engaged in the conversation. However, I also noticed several areas for improvement. I sometimes relied on basic vocabulary and had difficulty understanding everything Donovan said, especially when he spoke quickly. There were moments where I had to ask him to repeat himself, which showed me that I need to improve my listening comprehension.

Compared to my second TalkAbroad conversation, I can clearly see my growth. During this first conversation, I was more hesitant and focused on avoiding mistakes, which sometimes slowed down the conversation. I was also less confident when asking follow-up questions. However, this experience helped me recognize what I needed to improve, such as becoming more comfortable speaking spontaneously and improving my listening skills.

Overall, this first conversation was a valuable learning experience. Even though it was more challenging, it helped prepare me for my second TalkAbroad conversation, where I was more confident, more engaged, and better able to maintain the flow of conversation.